

Serial No.: 09/511,265
Examiner: Shick C. Horn

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-7, 9, 16, 19-22 are currently pending in this application, with claims 1, 6, 21 and 22 being independent claims. Claims 17 and 18 have been canceled herein. Claim 1, 6, 21 and 22 have been amended.

In the current office action, claim 18 was indicated to be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended claim 1 to substantially include all the limitations of dependent claims 17 and 18. Applicant therefore respectfully asserts that claim 1 as now presented overcomes this objection.

Additionally, Applicant has amended independent claims 6, 21 and 22 to substantially include all the limitations of claims 17 and 18. Applicant therefore respectfully asserts that claim 6, 21 and 22 as now presented are also patentable over the cited references.

Regarding claims 3-5, 16, 19 and 20, as these claims depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 1, and therefore include all the limitations of claim 1 therein, for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1, Applicant respectfully asserts that these claims are in condition for allowance.

Regarding claims 7 and 9, as these claims depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 6, and therefore include all the limitations of claim 6 therein, for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 6, Applicant respectfully asserts that these claims are in condition for allowance.

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It is believed that the foregoing amendment places the Application in condition for allowance; therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the Examiner's objections and rejections as set forth in the Office Action, and full allowance of the claims. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 10/11/05

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